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THE
Thurrock Urban District Council

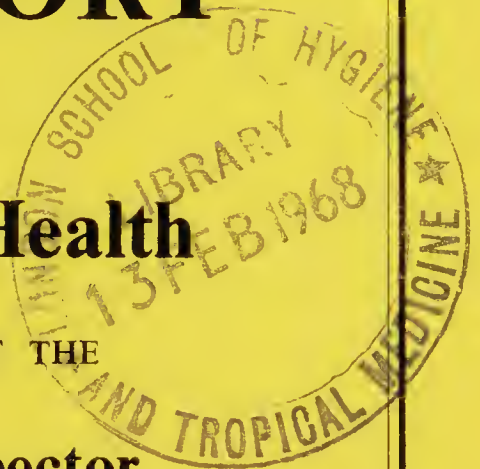


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORTS OF THE
Chief Public Health Inspector
and the Public Analyst

For the Year 1963





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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1963)

Chairman : M. B. JONES

Vice-Chairman : K. C. V. TALBOT

Councillors : A. F. BARNES

R. K. CALDERBANK

H. FLETCHER

J. FLETCHER, J.P.

Mrs. E. M. JEFFERIES, M.B.E., J.P.

T. PRICE

P. RICE

A. J. TOFT

URBAN DISTRICT OF THURROCK

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health :

R. D. PEARCE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer for South Essex (Essex County Health Services).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

P. J. RODEN, L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.)

Chief Public Health Inspector :

H. A. GOSLING, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. M. ANDERSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

Public Health Inspectors :

G. R. ALLENBY, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2) (Resigned 30.11.63)

D. G. STRIPP, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

S. ROUSE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2) (Resigned 7.8.63)

S. A. HUGHES, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2)

J. L. MCGARRY, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2)

G. R. DOVEY, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2)

J. FOSTER (1, 2) (from 2.9.63)

(1) Indicates Certificates: R.S.I. and S.I. Exam. Jt.Bd.

(2) Indicates Certificate: Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

(3) Indicates Certificate: Smoke Inspection.

Public Analyst :

THOS. MCLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.R.I.C.

Veterinary Officers (Part-time)

E. DIXON, B.SC., M.R.C.V.S. (from Nov. 1963)

M. A. CLARK, M.R.C.V.S. (from Nov. 1963)

Clerical Assistant—Public Health Department :

Mrs. D. SAYERS

Chief Clerk—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department :

S. V. EDWARDS

Trainee Public Health Inspectors :

J. MALTON

G. L. PAGE, Affil. R.S.H.

Clerical Assistants—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department :

Mrs. E. BROWNE

Mrs. E. CLAYDEN

Rodent Officer :

C. L. WILKINSON

Rodent Operative :

J. PERRY

Mortuary Attendant :

C. PARSLEY

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the state of Health in Thurrock for 1963. The Health of the district has remained at a high level.

The report includes that of the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. H. A. Gosling, and that of the Public Analyst.

The population of the district increased by 1,720 during the year. There was a small increase in the Birth Rate and 30 more Deaths were recorded in comparison with 1962.

The decline in the number of new cases of Tuberculosis discovered is encouraging, a decline which should continue.

An outbreak of Measles accounted for 1,285 cases of notifiable disease, a not unexpected happening in view of the low incidence in 1962. Measles outbreaks tend to occur Biannually.

Courses in Food Hygiene were commenced during the year at the Thurrock Technical College. These Courses are arranged by the staff of the Technical College, although the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and myself have been invited to give the Lectures. The Courses are open to anyone, although they are primarily designed for workers in the Food Industry. Those who attend the Course can sit for the examination in Food Hygiene of the Royal Institute of Public Health. The examination results of the Courses held so far have given encouragement.

In conclusion it is a pleasure to record my thanks to the Members of the Public Health Department for their co-operation during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. D. PEARCE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
34 Cresthill Avenue,
Grays, Essex.

Telephone: Grays Thurrock 4641/4.

SECTION "A"

Land Area of the District (in Acres)	42,000
Population (Registrar-General's Estimated Mid-Year 1963)	117,150
No. of Inhabited Houses or Flats (according to Rate Books as at 31.12.63)	34,694
Rateable Value (at 31.3.63)	£1,969,064
Product of a 1d. Rate (at 31.3.63)	£8,091

The Urban District of Thurrock stretches along the northern bank of the River Thames, having approximately 18 miles of river frontage. The area adjoining the river is industrial and contains two of the chief centres of population — Grays and Tilbury.

The principal industries are the manufacture of cement, margarine, cardboard, footwear, detergents, nitric acid and chemical fertilisers. In addition there are the oil refineries at Coryton and Shell Haven, the oil storage undertakings at Thames Haven, Grays and Purfleet and the docks at Tilbury.

Inland, the principal occupation is agriculture and the district includes many market gardens and dairy farms.

A large number of the inhabitants travel daily to work in London.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS	Thurrock Urban District
Live Births:	
Number—(1,010 Males, 1,070 Females)	2,080
Rate per 1,000 estimated } (Crude)	17.76
Mid-Year Home Population } (Adjusted)	17.58
Illegitimate Live Births percentage of total Live Births	4.42

Stillbirths:

Number—(15 Males, 22 Females)	....	37
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	....	17.48
Total live and stillbirths	....	2,117

DEATHS

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year):

Number—(26 Males, 18 Females)	....	44
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births		21.15
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate Live Births	....	20.62
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegiti- mate Live Births	....	32.61
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks) (14 Males, 14 Females) per 1,000 total Live Births	....	13.46
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week) (12 Males, 11 Females) per 1,000 total Live Births	....	11.06
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week combined) per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	....	28.34

Maternal Mortality (including abortion):

Number of deaths	....	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	....	0.47

All Causes:

Number—(509 Males, 467 Females)	....	976
Death rate per 1,000 estimated Mid-Year Home Population	(Crude)	8.33
	(Adjusted)	12.16

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The staff of the Public Health Department have been enumerated at the commencement of this Report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Pathological Laboratory facilities are provided as in the past years by the N.E. Metropolitan Hospital Regional Board and whilst the main Laboratory is situated in Billericay at St. Andrew's Hospital, good facilities exist at Orsett Hospital in the area. The thanks of the Council to the Tilbury and South East Essex Hospital Management Committee should be given in that the co-operation received during the year has been extremely good. The list of examinations which can be carried out is very comprehensive and of a widely varying scope but relates very greatly to pathological reports upon such specimens as Cerebro-Spinal Fluids, blood, faeces, etc. In addition the area is served by the Public Health Laboratory at Southend-on-Sea where all examinations of milk, water, ice-cream, etc., are carried out. Biological examination of milk is undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory, London Road, Chelmsford. Virus investigations are also carried out by the Director of the Public Health Laboratory at Chelmsford. These Public Health Laboratories are administered by the Medical Research Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The ambulance facilities in the district are adequate. The Service is administered centrally and is the responsibility of the Essex County Council. Over the last few years the number of vehicles and personnel have been increased very greatly. The ambulance service is an expensive service and every effort should be made by the users of the service to ensure that ambulances are not used when they are, in fact, not required. Certain of the larger local firms provide their own vehicles.

Ambulance Vehicles	...	...	...	5
Dual Purpose Vehicles	...	...	...	4
Total cases conveyed	....	....	....	40,304
Stretcher cases	....	....	3,485	
Other cases	....	....	36,819	
Total Mileage	....	....	....	226,633
Total emergency cases	....	....	....	3,692

SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The District Nursing Service of the area can be said to be reasonably well served although recruitment is difficult and there is a shortage of nursing staff. In the district as a whole there are employed 7 full-time and 3 part-time Nurses. The number of visits paid to patients' homes was 37,382 during 1963.

PROVISION OF NURSING APPLIANCES IN THE HOME.

On application numerous articles of equipment for the patients in their homes are supplied. Such articles include bedrests, bedpans, bed cradles, commodes, mattresses, wheelchairs in and out-door, air cushions, air rings, etc. The main depot for distribution is at Whitehall Lodge, Whitehall Lane, Grays. Nursing equipment on loan for the sick, does not, as a rule, include specialised equipment for the permanently incapacitated. This service is a very valuable service and much appreciated by patients and has been greatly extended during the year under review.

HEALTH CENTRES, COMBINED TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

On the following pages will be found a list of these clinics and treatment Centres. It should be noted that there is one Health Centre built in the Year 1955 from which not only the services of the Local Health Authority function, but also General Medical and Dental Services. In this Centre there are four suites of consulting rooms for Medical Practitioners and one suite for a Dental Practitioner, together with accommodation for the Local Health Authority Services for Speech Therapy and for Ophthalmology. In addition facilities have been made available to the Probation Officers, the Registrar of Births and Deaths and the Children's Officer.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The establishment of midwives in the area is 14 full-time and 7 part-time District Nurse/Midwives and it is becoming increasingly difficult to fill vacancies in this branch of the service. The co-operation of the Local Authority in providing housing accommodation is of great assistance in filling a vacant post.

HEALTH VISITING SERVICES.

The establishment for Thurrock is 16 full-time and 1 part-time Health Visitors. The Health Visitors have to assist them 14 part-time School Nurses. The duties of the Health Visitors have been widely extended in the last few years to include domiciliary care of all within their areas, not only of mothers and young children but also the aged.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICES.

The staff for the Thurrock area comprises: —

(a) Full-time Domestic Helps	1
(b) Regular part-time Domestic Helps	138
(c) Casual Domestic Helps	146

This service has increased very greatly over the last ten years. the services, initiated for assistance to be given in households during confinements, is now very largely extended to chronic sick as well.

WOMEN'S WELFARE.

Women's Welfare Clinics are held at Grays, Aveley and the London County Council Estate. At these clinics advice is given on medical grounds in regard to family planning etc., in addition to the Family Planning Association Clinic held at the Grays Welfare Centre, The Park, Grays.

ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES CLINICS
THURROCK DISTRICT

District	Details of Clinic	Address
Aveley	Child Welfare Ante-natal Women's Welfare Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination Chiropody O.A.P	Health Services Clinic, Hall Lane, Aveley
Aveley Health Centre	Child Welfare Relaxation Classes & Women's Welfare Minor Ailments Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination Midwives Booking Session	Health Services Centre, Darenth Lane, Aveley
Bulphan	Mothers and Children either attend at Stanford or Grays	
Chadwell-St.-Mary	Child Welfare Ante-natal Mothercraft Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, River View, Chadwell-St.-Mary
Corringham	Child Welfare Immunisation and Vaccination	Memorial Hall, Corringham
East Tilbury	Child Welfare Midwives Booking Session	The Bungalow, Station Road, East Tilbury

District	Details of Clinic	Address
Grays	Child Welfare Ante-natal Women's Welfare Family Planning Old Aged Pensioners Chiropody Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, The Park, Grays
Horndon-on-the-Hill	Child Welfare	Community Hall, High Road, Horndon-on-the-Hill
Purfleet and West Thurrock	Child Welfare Ante-natal Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination Chiropody O.A.P.	Health Services Clinic, London Road, and Day Nursery, W. Thurrock
Stanford-le-Hope	Child Welfare Ante-natal Mothercraft Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, St. Margaret's Hall, Stanford-le-Hope
Grays North	Child Welfare Ante-natal Ante-natal Exercises Post-natal Exercises Mothercraft Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination Chiropody O.A.P.	Health Services Clinic, Stifford Long Lane, Grays
Tilbury	Child Welfare Ante-natal Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination Chiropody O.A.P.	Health Services Clinic, Newton Road, Tilbury
South Ockendon	Child Welfare Ante-natal Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, 107 South Road, South Ockendon

DAY NURSERIES.

There are two Day Nurseries in the area at Grays and West Thurrock. In each Nursery there are 30 places.

CHIROPODY.

One whole-time chiropodist who visits the homes of the aged and infirm and carries out treatment in the clinics is employed. The chiropodist also visits Bennett Lodge, a home for the aged.

IMMUNISATION.

During 1963 the following Immunisation procedures were carried out either by private medical practitioners or by the staff of the Essex County Health Service.

Triple (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus).	1,475	....	Triple (Boosts)	....	771
Diphtheria/Tetanus.	77	....	Boosts	....	64
Tetanus	1,276	....	Boosts	....	574
Diphtheria	Nil	....	Boosts	....	582
Whooping Cough	9	....	Boosts	....	164
Smallpox Vaccination	290	....	Re-vaccinations		240
Poliomyelitis					
1st and 2nd Injections	117	....	Boosts	....	392
Poliomyelitis (Oral)					
1st and 2nd Injections	1,989	....	Boosts	....	2,193

HOSPITAL SERVICES are provided by the North East Metropolitan Hospital Regional Board at 3 hospitals.

1. Tilbury and Riverside General Hospital (Orsett Branch)
2. Tilbury and Riverside General Hospital (Tilbury Branch).
3. Thurrock Hospital—Diseases of the Chest, Tuberculosis.

A new out-patients Department has been built at Orsett Hospital to serve the district and a new Hospital is being built.

MOBILE MEALS.

The Women's Voluntary Services have a limited distribution of meals on certain days upon application. The Local Authority makes an annual grant of £600 towards this service. I am indebted to Mrs. G. F. Taylor, Organiser for the following information.

Grays Area:—

Approximate No. of Meals Distributed	....	6,622
Total Mileage	....	5,045

Stanford-le-Hope Area:—

Approximate No. of Meals Distributed	....	1,918
Total Mileage	....	600

HOUSING.

The Council have 9,380 Council Houses and in addition the London County Council, the East Ham Borough Council and the West Ham Borough Council have built estates. Despite this there still remains a total number of 3,544 upon the waiting list for

houses. The allocation of Thurrock Council Houses is dealt with upon a points scheme and the Medical Officer of Health recommends extra points upon medical evidence submitted on behalf of the patients. During the year under review 189 cases were investigated and points awarded.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health medically examines entrants to the Council's Service and deals with medical questions arising in regard to examinations as to the fitness of an employee to remain in the Council's Service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47)

No action was taken during the year under the above Act.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

The South Essex Crematorium situated over the boundary of the district at Corbets Tey is carried on with the Borough of Romford and the Urban District of Hornchurch. The Medical Officers of Health of the constituent authorities act as Medical Referees and during the year the remains of 353 persons from the Thurrock area were disposed of.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE CITY AND PORT OF LONDON.

The Urban District of Thurrock contains Tilbury Docks, into which an enormous amount of shipping arrives and two Assistant Medical Officers of the Essex County Health Service working in the Thurrock district act as Boarding Officers.

SECTION "C"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASE	Notified	Confirmed	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	73	73	—	—
Dysentery ...	136	43	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute and Influenzal) ...	62	62	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	16	16	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	110	110	—	—
Measles ...	1285	1285	—	—
Erysipelas ...	5	5	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	5	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	155	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	2	—
Meningitis ...	1	1	1	—
Para-Typhoid "B" ...	2	2	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE INCIDENCE ACCORDING TO
AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 yrs. over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	9	15	39	8	1	1	73
Infective Hepatitis ...	—	—	1	2	4	4	5	16
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	5
Dysentery ...	1	15	12	22	11	17	58	136
Pneumonia ...	10	15	5	8	1	5	18	62
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	5
Whooping Cough ...	7	24	24	45	7	1	2	110
Measles ...	39	279	322	612	28	4	1	1285
Food Poisoning ...	4	16	11	20	13	28	63	155
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Meningitis ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Para-Typhoid "B" ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2

FOOD POISONING, &c.

The number of notified cases of Suspected Food Poisoning, Dysentery, etc., shows no signs of diminishing and gives rise to a large amount of work on the part of the Department.

Particular mention must be made of the large number of cases of Dysentery which were notified during the spring. Most of these cases were from Chadwell St. Mary and Stifford Clays. Faecal specimens were taken from all family contacts and several carriers were brought to light.

It is the practice to take faecal specimens from each notified case of food poisoning or dysentery, but in many instances such specimens were shown to be negative.

In the case of foodhandlers (whether patients or contacts) three negative specimens are required before he or she is permitted to resume work.

During the year 29 persons were excluded from work and in one case compensation for loss of earnings was made.

The practice of submitting specimens to Orsett Hospital was continued but the numbers became so great at one time that the Hospital found themselves unable to deal with the situation and recourse was had to the Public Health Laboratory at Westcliff-on-Sea.

The following table shows the number of faecal specimens or throat swabs submitted by the Department during the year, the paratyphoid "B" being from a case imported into the area from the Midlands.

Taken From	Total	Neg- ative	Positive					
			Shig. Sonnei	Sal. Typ.	Sal. Tenn- esee	Sal. Heidel- berg	Para Typ. "B"	Haem. Strept.
Food Handlers	73	63	9	—	—	—	—	I
Non-Food Handlers	423	338	77	3	I	2	2	—

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 yrs.	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—
15-24 „	5	3	—	2	—	—	—	—
25-44 „	6	3	2	—	—	1	—	—
45-64 „	3	4	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 up-wards	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	17	13	6	3	3	2	—	—

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SECTION "D"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The principal water supply of the area is provided by South Essex Waterworks Company, the vast majority of the premises in the district being served thereby. A small part of the area at Langdon Hills is served by the Southend Waterworks Company.

The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year and is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

No. of samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination: —

(a) From Public Mains	....	....	....	13
(b) From Wells, etc.	....	....	....	2

No. of samples taken and submitted for chemical examination: —

(a) From Public Mains	....	....	....	2
(b) From Wells	....	....	....	2

In all cases samples were satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically.

During the year two properties, previously served by well water, were connected to the main despite the fact that the cost of connection exceeded the statutory limit of £60 per house.

One other well has been closed during the year, the two properties being served thereby having been made the subject of Demolition Orders.

No. of dwellinghouses supplied from public water mains direct	....	....	34,665
Estimated population served	....	....	117,053
No. of houses supplied from public water mains supplied by standpipes	....		20
Estimated population served	....	....	70
No. of houses served by wells or stored rain water	....	....	9
Estimated population served	....	....	27

Those properties supplied by standpipes refer to premises forming part of the Dunton Hills Estate. The laying of water mains would be very expensive and moreover, it is thought that some of the land will revert to agriculture in the not too distant future.

The few remaining houses supplied by wells are situated in the more remote rural portion of the area where the cost of providing a mains supply is very expensive. In addition there are two wells at one of the oil refineries, the water from which is used for drinking and domestic purposes.

METEOROLOGICAL DETAILS.

Total amount of rain which fell during the year	....	20.07"
Number of days on which rain fell	....	185
Heaviest rainfall on any one day (17.8.63)	....	0.80"
No. of hours of sunshine	....	1,334

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

By far the greater proportion of the Urban District is sewered. The village of Bulphan on the northern boundary, together with parts of Linford, Fobbing and Orsett are the principal areas not yet sewered.

During the year the automatic surface water pumping station at the World's End Sluice, Tilbury, and the major portion of the Stifford Village Sewerage Scheme were completed. This latter scheme will result in the abolition of many cesspools and the conversion of eight pail closets to water closets. The Council's policy of including in the contract the laying of drains from existing cesspools to the new sewer will enable the operation of conversion to take place smoothly.

The Linford Sewerage Scheme has been approved and it is hoped that work will commence during 1964. This will mean the conversion of five pail closets to water closets.

The Main Disposal Works are situated at Marsh Farm, West Tilbury, but smaller plants exist at Corringham, Stanford-le-Hope and Linford.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The principal river in the area is the Thames, on the north bank of which the Thurrock Urban District stands. In addition, the Mardyke rises above Bulphan and Orsett Fens and discharges into the Thames at Aveley. There are in addition, various small tidal streams which also discharge into the Thames.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were 851 cesspools and 359 pail closets in the area at the close of the year. The number of cesspools continues to rise and the number of pail closets to decrease. It is to be hoped, however, that with the increased sewerage of the more rural parts of the area, a marked decrease in both these methods of disposal will take place.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out by the Public Cleansing Superintendent and no important change in the general arrangements took place during the year.

It is the Council's policy to empty household dustbins and pail closets weekly and cesspools fortnightly.

Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on a site at Baker Street, Orsett.

The Municipal Dustbin Scheme has functioned satisfactorily during the year and is of great assistance to the Department in ensuring that all premises not only have proper dustbins but that such bins will conform to B.S.I. standards. The number of visits made by the Public Health Inspectorate for this purpose has fallen to negligible proportions.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are, within the area, nine swimming baths as follows: —

Public	...	...	...	...	...	1
Private	...	...	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	6

The Public Swimming Bath is situated on the river front at Grays and was acquired by the Council some years ago from the London County Council.

The bath is approximately 60 ft. x 28 ft. and slopes from 2 ft. 6 ins. to 7 ft. 6 ins. Its capacity is 65,625 gallons. There are no means of filtration, but the water is chlorinated by chlorine gas injection and heated by means of a small Economic Boiler which admits steam to the water at various points. It is emptied twice weekly and refilled with mains water.

The bath is open from May-September and daily tests are made by the attendant in addition to routine samples submitted for bacteriological examination by the Health Department.

However, on January 1st, 1964, the new swimming bath at Blackshots Playing fields was opened and the former Public Bath is now closed.

The new bath is 110 ft. x 42 ft. and slopes from 3 ft. to 12 ft. 6 ins. Its capacity is 220,000 gallons, with a four-hourly turnover. The cycle of operation is prechlorination, treatment with soda ash and alumina, pressure filtration, final chlorination followed by heating to 78°F and aeration.

The two private baths are situated upon premises of large industrial undertakings. They are of the open-air type and are provided with a continuous circulatory filtration and chlorination unit.

Of the six school baths, three are of the “indoor” type with continuous circulatory filtraion and chlorination units. The remaining three are “outdoor” baths open only during the summer and are mainly for tuition purposes—the cost of which was met largely by voluntary subscription. Although these are fitted with circulatory and chlorination units, they are of more elementary design and close supervision will be necessary if a satisfactory water is to be maintained.

The total number of samples taken during the year was 45, all of which were satisfactory.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one common lodging house in the area—situated at the junction of High Street and West Street, Grays—and this has been in existence for very many years. It provides accommodation for 21 persons.

The premises are very old, poorly constructed and certainly not lavishly equipped. Some of the inhabitants frequenting the lodging house do not place a high value on cleanliness and regular visits are necessary to ensure compliance with the regulations. However, the premises presumably meet a need and should be allowed to continue for the time being although its future may well be affected by the proposed Grays Redevelopment Scheme.

During the year 13 visits were made.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The area contains many large industrial plants situated along the river front and the department pays regular attention to factory chimneys with a view to ensuring that smoke is not emitted in such quantities as to infringe the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958.

There is an increasing tendency for coal-fired units to be converted to oil and of the 66 new furnaces notified over the past four years, 62 have been oil fired and one gas fired.

This policy inevitably leads to a reduction of smoke and grit but it must be remembered that there is not the same decrease in invisible sulphur dioxide.

Although few complaints have been received, the department has been particularly concerned with: —

- (1) The emission of smoke from a wood-burning installation.
- (2) The emission of smoke from the boiler installation of a local hospital.

In the first instance, the firm concerned are to instal an entirely new plant for the burning of sawdust and wood waste which, it is hoped, will materially improve the situation.

So far as the hospital is concerned, this is a case of overloading of the boiler plant and has been the subject of comment in previous years. It is pleasing to know that the provision of a new boiler house is one of those items of reconstruction which is to be carried out in the near future.

The installation engaged in the recovery of non-ferrous metals and which has been mentioned year after year, has now passed into the hands of the Alkali, etc., Inspectorate.

ALKALI, ETC. WORKS.

The following works are now under the control of the Alkali Works Inspector and complete co-operation exists between him and this department: —

Cement Production	....	....	....	....	4
Synthetic Detergent Plant (bisulphite section)					1
Oil Refining, etc.	....	....	....	....	4
Electricity Production	....	....	....	....	2
Nitric Acid Production	....	....	....	....	2
Recovery of non-ferrous Metals	....	....	....	....	1

The two nitric acid plants utilise ammonia which is synthesised at one of the plants for conversion into nitric acid and from thence into ammonium nitrate and nitro-chalk for use as fertilisers. Both plants are working and during the year no complaints have been received. During normal working there is no reason to believe the discharge will exceed the limit laid down by the Alkali Inspectorate.

Part of the West Thurrock Generating Station is in operation and it should not be too long before the station is in full production. Work on the new Tilbury "B" Generating Station is proceeding.

It is interesting to note that, whilst Tilbury "A" Station is oil-fired, both Tilbury "B" and West Thurrock will be coal fired.

Complaints regarding malodorous emissions from the Oil Refineries are few. They only occur when the wind is in a south or south-easterly direction and atmospheric conditions hinder the proper dispersion of waste gases. The oil companies view such complaints very seriously and arrangements exist whereby should a complaint be received at any time of the day or night, contact can be made immediately with the refineries.

It is not necessary for me to repeat what has been said year after year regarding the dust nuisance from cement works, but during the year additional efforts were made by the Council to secure some improvement.

In April, representatives of the three cement works in this area were invited to meet members of the Public Health Committee, together with the Alkali, etc., Works Inspector and the local Member of Parliament. Unfortunately representatives of only one company attended and although a useful discussion ensued, it was felt that little progress had been made.

The Council thereupon decided to hold a public meeting in order to give members of the public an opportunity to air their grievances and the large attendance, together with the vigorous discussion, was a measure of the indignation felt regarding the dust problem.

At the conclusion, a resolution was drawn up calling upon the Council to refuse to implement the Smoke Control provisions of the Clean Air Act until the cement dust nuisance had been reduced.

In my view this resolution contributed nothing towards a solution of the problem and the Council declined to support it upon the grounds that "two wrongs do not make a right."

However, it has now been decided to send a deputation to the Minister of Housing and Local Government and it is hoped to arrange this early in 1964.

So far as the cement works themselves are concerned, it is sufficient to say that the dust nuisance still persists despite the fact that the thirteen kilns operating in Thurrock are fitted with electrostatic precipitators. However, it must be remembered that the efficiency of a precipitator is dependent upon its being properly maintained and as time goes on, the stage is reached when it becomes impossible to maintain it at peak efficiency. I think it is possible that this stage has been reached so far as some of the units in this area are concerned.

A further cause for complaint lies in the emission of an evil smelling gas—resembling sewage—from the cement works. This is undoubtedly hydrogen sulphide. Periodic tests are carried out by the Alkali, etc., Works Inspector for the detection of this gas which should not be emitted from a cement kiln at any time and implies a failure to control conditions to the degree necessary to achieve efficient combustion.

INSTALLATION OF FURNACES AND CHIMNEYS.

(1)	No. of notifications of construction of new furnaces	10
	(a) Coal fired	Nil
	(b) Oil fired	10
	(c) Gas fired	Nil
(2)	No. of applications for Prior Approval	8
	No. Granted	8

In all cases agreement was subsequently reached on the question of chimney heights.

BY-LAWS

By-laws exist under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, which require new buildings to be provided with only such appliances for heating and cooking as are suitably designed for burning authorised smokeless fuels. Their enforcement is carried out by the Building Inspectors.

SMOKE CONTROL.

Two areas in the Urban District are now the subject of Smoke Control Orders. Both, for the most part, comprise London County Council Estates and are situated at Kenningtons (Aveley) and Belhus (South Ockendon) respectively.

Details are as follows:—

Area	....	....	....	2,236 acres
No. of dwellinghouses	....	....	....	5,051
„ „ shops	....	....	....	75
„ „ Schools	....	....	....	12
„ „ industrial premises	....	....	....	16
„ „ miscellaneous premises	....	....	....	16

Fifteen dwellinghouses required some form of conversion and, for the most part, this has now been carried out.

During the year a survey was made with a view to a third Smoke Control Area being created. This area, covering 660 acres, is situated to the north of Long Lane, Grays, and includes the Stifford Clays Estate. It contains 1,464 Council houses, and 575 private dwellings, of which 805 will need some form of conversion.

Scarcely had the report been submitted to the Council when the Minister of Housing and Local Government issued Circular 69/63 advising local authorities that the production of open fire gas cokes could only be increased to a limited extent and that greater reliance should be placed on heating stoves (burning hard coke) gas or oil heaters and electrical storage heaters.

There would also appear to be no guarantee of substantial increases in supplies of premium smokeless fuels.

In the field of electrical heating appliances, storage heaters using off-peak supplies are advocated if power cuts are to be avoided.

The changed policy laid down in this circular has meant a revision of the estimated cost of conversions of appliances in the proposed Smoke Control Area—indeed the original sum has been considerably increased.

I am pleased to say, however, that this increase has not deterred the Council from continuing with its programme.

MEASURING INSTRUMENTS.

Three deposit gauges and one peroxide cylinder are maintained by the Council who co-operate closely with the Thameside Joint Committee and to whom the monthly results are forwarded.

The readings from the gauges for the year 1963 are as follows: —

Month 1963	Tons per square mile			Mg. per 100 sq. Cm.
	Drums Site	Kennington's School Site	Ward Avenue Site	Sulphur Trioxide
January	24.57	12.69	15.21	2.17
February	22.77	13.03	13.75	8.83
March	31.68	19.11	25.60	1.42
April	30.80	16.15	24.27	1.04
May	27.13	11.88	26.59	1.21
June	26.21	14.22	—	0.81
July	26.57	11.73	12.74	0.76
August	27.46	10.45	33.18	1.33
September	24.07	10.39	20.71	1.19
October	34.35	12.23	—	1.22
November	30.08	23.87	27.40	1.71
December	23.48	13.25	16.27	1.88

The results include not only cement dust, but dust, grit and gritty particles from all sources.

During the year the Council installed a third Combined Smoke/Volumetric instrument for the daily recording of smoke and sulphur dioxide. The apparatus is installed in the Public Library at Stanford-le-Hope.

The readings from these instruments are as follows:—

Mth.	GRAYS			BELHUS			STANFORD-LE-HOPE		
	Micrograms/cu.M./Air			Micrograms/cu M./Air			Micrograms/cü.M./Air		
	Smoke	S.O ₂	Ratio S/S.O ₂	Smoke	S O ₂	Ratio S/S.O ₂	Smoke	S.O ₂	Ratio S/S.O ₂
Jan.	183	259	0.70	125	245	0.50	—	—	—
Feb.	168	176	0.95	123	214	0.57	—	—	—
Mar.	88	98	0.89	47	110	0.43	—	—	—
April	88	107	0.82	46	101	0.46	—	—	—
May	67	99	0.68	36	94	0.38	—	—	—
June	32	61	0.52	21	60	0.35	—	—	—
July	47	88	0.53	18	71	0.25	—	—	—
Aug.	39	66	0.59	15	56	0.27	—	—	—
Sept.	69	72	0.96	30	76	0.39	—	—	—
Oct.	95	103	0.94	62	90	0.69	60	80	0.75
Nov.	129	106	1.22	72	109	0.66	90	86	1.05
Dec.	259	169	1.53	187	162	1.15	239	128	1.86

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

In addition to the treatment of verminous premises (detailed elsewhere in this report) the Council assists occupiers of premises in the eradication of other pests, e.g. earwigs, ants and wasps, either by the sale of suitable insecticides or by disinfestation, for which a charge is made, the latter procedure being used in the case of wasps nests. The department would prefer not to carry out work of this nature as no public health problem is involved, but it is appreciated that wasps nests are sometimes difficult to destroy and the use of special apparatus is often necessary. During the year under review, eleven nests were dealt with either by the use of cyanide or liquid insecticide.

When certain infectious diseases occur (e.g. Smallpox, Poliomyelitis, Meningococcal Infection) rooms are fumigated with formaldehyde and the bedding is removed for steam sterilisation to the Orsett Hospital.

The number of rooms so fumigated was 7 and in 6 cases bedding was removed.

The department also undertakes the clearing of private drains where blockage occurs and a charge of ten shillings is made for this purpose. Unfortunately this service has become too well known, with the result that time is devoted to this when it ought to be devoted to the Rodent Officer's primary duty, i.e., the destruction of rats and mice. During the year drains were cleared in 54 instances.

RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Rodent Officer deals with all complaints regarding rodent infestations. Private dwellinghouses are treated without cost but trade premises are charged on a basis of total cost plus Establishment Charges. Estimates are not given unless requested, owing to the difficulty of determining how many visits are likely to be made before the premises are cleared.

The Rodent Officer carries out regular treatments at sewage works, refuse tips and to the Council's sewers.

Warfarin is used in connection with all premises and sodium fluoroacetate for the treatment of sewers.

The following table shows the work of the Rodent Staff during the year: —

	Local Authority Premises	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other Premises	TOTAL
1. Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification ...	26	371	106	503
(b) Survey under the Act ...	—	—	—	—
(c) Otherwise ...	308	1541	2604	4453
2. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 1) which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats } Major ...	—	—	1	1
} Minor ...	22	298	47	367
(b) Mice } Major ...	—	—	—	—
} Minor ...	4	73	58	125
3. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 2) treated by the Local Authority ...	26	368	102	496
4. Total treatments carried out incl. retreatments ...	39	368	102	509

OLD METAL DEALERS.

By the Old Metal Dealers (No. 3) Order, 1952, the Secretary of State, Home Office, declared Section 85 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 to be in force in the Urban District.

At the end of the year 34 persons had been registered as Dealers in Old Metal.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The number of licences to keep Pet Shops issued during the year was 4.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the area are registered under the above mentioned Act.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

The authority for the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950—the Essex County Council—have delegated to the Council their functions regarding the licensing of boiling plants for animal feeding stuffs.

The importance of adequate boiling of waste food before feeding to animals or fowls cannot be over-emphasised for it is considered that failure to do this is responsible for some of the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, swine fever and fowl pest.

The number of plants licensed during the year was 24.

NOISE ABATEMENT.

The powers of a local authority in relation to noise are mentioned in the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, which enables legal proceedings to be taken in respect of any noise or vibration which is a nuisance. The procedure is by way of a Nuisance Order in accordance with Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936. A similar power is given to any three occupiers of land within hearing of the noise.

Members of the public never seem to avail themselves of this right but invariably make their complaint to the local authority but, in my view, there should be at least an element of nuisance to the public at large before a local authority takes action. It should not concern itself with what is basically a private individual's complaint against his neighbour.

However, two serious incidents of noise nuisance occurred during the year and in both cases statutory notices were served requiring measures to be taken for abatement.

The first concerned an extractor fan for removing wood shavings in connection with a factory process and constitutes a

typical example of a noise which, although not loud, yet because of its continuous note for hour after hour, may drive nearby residents to distraction. After much trial and error, the nuisance was abated.

The second instance involved a firm engaged in the manufacture of cement blocks. Some complaints had been received during normal working hours, but these rose to a crescendo when night working commenced and members of the staff spent many a midnight hour visiting this factory in an endeavour to assess the origin and degree of noise.

A meeting was arranged between members of the Public Health Committee and representatives of the firm concerned and since that time much work has been carried out in an attempt to reduce the noise. A "hardcore" remains particularly in connection with the oil-fired boiler, the remedy for which is likely to be very expensive. It must be realised that for an industrial plant of this size to be operated noiselessly is outside the field of practicability.

It is hoped during the year 1964 to obtain a noise meter which will register sound in decibels and although such an instrument has its limitations, it will be of undoubted value to the department.

On the subject of noise generally, it can be repeated that planning control can do much to reduce complaints by imposing conditions that will minimise noise or disturbance at the outset.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA.						VISITS
Atmospheric Pollution	....	....	....	....	....	524
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	63
Caravans	....	....	....	....	....	972
Common Lodging Houses	....	....	....	....	....	13
Dairies and Milkshops	....	....	....	....	....	99
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	1289
Dustbins	....	....	....	....	....	9
Dwellinghouses	....	....	....	....	....	2826
Factories (Mechanical)	....	....	....	....	....	338
Factories (Non-mechanical)	....	....	....	....	....	21
Fairs	....	....	....	....	....	1
Food Inspection	....	....	....	....	....	272
Food Preparation Premises	....	....	....	....	....	763
Food Shops Inspection	....	....	....	....	....	1185
Food Vehicles	....	....	....	....	....	37
Hackney Carriages	....	....	....	....	....	25
Ice Cream Premises	....	....	....	....	....	44
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	1635
Licensed Premises	....	....	....	....	....	157

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA						VISITS
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	1011
Meat Inspection	....	....	....	....	....	571
Outworkers	....	....	....	....	....	79
Overcrowding	....	....	....	....	....	58
Pet Animals	....	....	....	....	....	4
Sampling—Food	....	....	....	....	....	615
Ice-Cream	....	....	....	....	....	358
Milk	....	....	....	....	....	678
Swimming Bath Water	....	....	....	....	....	46
Mains Water	....	....	....	....	....	15
Schools	....	....	....	....	....	51
Shops Act	....	....	....	....	....	695
Slaughterhouses (other than meat inspection)	....	....	....	....	....	16
Stables and Pigsties	....	....	....	....	....	9
Standard Grants	....	....	....	....	....	179
Verminous Premises	....	....	....	....	....	42
Waste Foods Order	....	....	....	....	....	69
Water Supply	....	....	....	....	....	88
Work Places	....	....	....	....	....	9

HEALTH EDUCATION.

A Course in Food Hygiene for food handlers has been organised at Thurrock Technical College. The syllabus is to the standard of the Certificate in Food Hygiene and Handling of Food of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, and an examination is held at the end of the Course.

All the industries in the area were circularised giving particulars of the Course but, having regard to the number of canteens in the area, the support forthcoming was not up to expectations.

The law in the form of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, places certain legal obligations upon occupiers of food premises and their employees. The provisions of these Regulations are directed against the spread of infection by food and are not rules made purely for the sake of imposing them. This is not always realised by food handlers and a Course such as this demonstrates the reasons behind the various requirements. For example, washing facilities are required to be provided on food premises but no law on earth will make employees use them unless they are aware of the danger of infection from hands. An elementary knowledge of bacteria and their basic requirements for growth gives the food handler a new outlook on his responsibilities and the dangers inherent in lack of personal cleanliness. This has already been observed among the few who have attended the Course of Lectures.

SECTION "E"

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES.

No. of new dwellings erected during the year: —

By local authority	....	....	....	....	297
By other local authorities	....	....	....	....	5
By other bodies or persons	....	....	....	....	571

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

1. (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	868
(b)	Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose	2826
2. (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1) inspected under Housing Consolidated Regulations	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose	Nil
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be unfit for human habitation, and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit (excluding Clearance Areas)	11
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	250

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their officers	126
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) <i>Housing Act, 1957—Section 9</i>	Nil
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(B) *Public Health Act, 1936.*

(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring matters to be remedied	93
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(ii) Number of dwellinghouses in which matters were remedied after service of formal notices (including those outstanding from 1962): —

(a) By owners	....	....	....	....	....	70
(b) By local authority in default of owners	....					Nil

(C) *Sections 16 and 23, Housing Act, 1957.*

(i) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	....	....	7
(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	....	....	1
(iii) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted	....	....	....	....	1
(iv) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings to render fit were accepted	....	....			Nil

(D) *Section 17, Housing Act, 1957.*

(i) No. of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	....	....	....	....	....	2
(ii) Number of houses closed	....	....	....			Nil

CLEARANCE AREAS.

Housing Act, 1957—Section 42.

During the year one area involving 12 houses was submitted for confirmation, and subsequently confirmed by the Minister.

The properties in one clearance area at West Thurrock involving 22 houses, were demolished and the site cleared, the occupants having been rehoused.

This year is the third of the five-year programme which will end on 31st December, 1965, and the Council have informed the Minister that they propose to deal with 120 unfit houses during this period.

During these three years 99 houses have been dealt with (82.5%) so that the Council are well ahead with their programme.

It has been decided, however, to accelerate the slum clearance programme so that, by the end of 1964, the original target of 120 houses will have been exceeded despite the fact that the programme will have another year to run.

Mention must also be made of the redevelopment areas in Grays and Tilbury which are, for the most part, tantamount to slum clearance.

In the case of Tilbury, the Council have acquired all the properties concerned from which the tenants are gradually being rehoused and the premises demolished.

In the case of Grays, the purchase of premises on the south side of the railway has been commenced and in due course the occupants will be rehoused.

DISCRETIONARY AND STANDARD GRANTS.

The work during the year under this heading is summarised as follows:—

No. of applications received:—

(a) For Discretionary Grants ....	...	....	....	22
(b) For Standard Grants ....	....	....	....	76

No. of applications granted:—

(a) For Discretionary Grants ....	....	....	....	22
(b) For Standard Grants ....	....	....	....	67

Some slight increase is shown over the previous year but it is regretted that more use is not made of this scheme which is designed to provide houses with amenities now regarded as essential.

Very few owners of rented property make use of these facilities and it is pleasing to note that the Housing Bill, now before Parliament, proposes to incorporate a measure of compulsion.

RENT ACT, 1957.

This Act has been in operation some $6\frac{1}{2}$ years and permits, with few exceptions, rents to be increased automatically, subject to the tenant's right to object by the service of a notice on the landlord listing those defects of repair which he considers should be remedied. It will be seen that virtually no use has been made of this Act during the year under review, and it now seems to serve very little purpose.

Details of its administration are as follows:—

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
No. of applications received	68	56	15	—	—	—	2
No. of applications rejected	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
No. of Undertakings accepted	40	48	5	2	—	—	1
No. of Certificates of Disrepair issued	10	26	7	—	—	—	—
No. of Applications for Cancellation of Certificate	8	3	1	—	2	2	1
No. of Cancellations issued	6	3	1	—	2	2	1
No. of Refusals to Cancel Certificates	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

13 premises were found to be infested with vermin as follows:—

Bugs	- 10 premises (involving 25 rooms)
Cockroaches	- 1 premises (involving 1 room)
Fleas	- 2 premises (involving 3 rooms)

OVERCROWDING.

During the year 58 visits were made in connection with complaints of overcrowding. Where overcrowding was established, the matter was referred to the Housing Department and if the family concerned were applicants for a Council house an allowance was made in the "Points" Scheme.

In previous reports mention has been made of the unsatisfactory position regarding overcrowding inasmuch as there appears to be no settled policy for dealing with such cases. The Council are to give this matter detailed consideration during the forthcoming year and it is hoped that a definite policy will be laid down and this should assist the department in trying to solve some of the problems which occur from time to time.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION.

The problem of houses in multiple occupation is not serious in Thurrock at the moment, but there is every indication that it will become more acute especially where Indians are concerned. These immigrants have a habit of buying houses and letting off rooms to various individuals many of whom are alleged to be relatives of the owner. Serious overcrowding can occur, and this is accompanied by lack of facilities for washing, cooking and heating, in these terrace type houses originally built for one family.

It is difficult when inspecting such houses to assess the true position, having regard to the conflicting statements which are sometimes made, and the task is made no easier by the language problem.

A word would not be out of place on the subject of housing generally, with special reference to houses in multiple occupation. For many years emphasis has been laid upon Slum Clearance and the provision of an adequate number of new houses—one house, one family, has been the cry—and rightly so. Thousands of houses are being built—both by local authorities and private enterprise—and large numbers of slum houses demolished, yet in 1961 it was necessary to bring in special legislation to deal with the evil of multiple occupation, and the size of the problem has led to new housing legislation which is now before Parliament.

Under the existing law local authorities are placed in an invidious position. If the Act is enforced they are virtually licensing substandard housing conditions. If they do nothing, they are giving silent approval to such conditions.

It seems to me that legislation of this character is putting the clock back when the object should be to deal with the principal cause of multiple occupation—insufficient houses.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The position regarding moveable dwellings is as difficult as ever and the amount of time devoted to this problem is shown by the fact that, during 1963, the number of visits made reached the colossal figure of 972. Hardly a week passes without which one or more caravans are found on grass verges and disused land. Eventually they are persuaded to move and, with the co-operation of landowners, the policy of barricading sites has continued. However, this fraternity are experts on finding other sites and the whole process becomes a battle of wits.

In one instance even the barricades were forced and the land occupied by up to twenty caravans. All efforts to persuade them to move failed and finally the Council took Enforcement Action under the Town and Country Planning Act, the result of which is awaited with interest.

So far as established sites are concerned, the site at Corringham has now received permanent planning permission for twenty caravans and work is proceeding to bring it up to the standard required under the Model Standards.

The uncontrolled site adjoining the West Thurrock Power Station is still in existence but during 1963 the caravans moved to a plot of land to the east as was anticipated in my report for 1962.

It has always been my considered opinion that this site is totally unsuitable for occupation by caravans in view of the nature of the soil which is bound to give rise to drainage difficulties.

In view of the exemption this site enjoys by reason of its proximity to the Power Station, very little control is possible and action can only be taken if a public health nuisance arises. This has indeed arisen since the soakaways provided for sullage water, in some cases became ineffective due to the high percentage of clay in the soil.

The site operator has not been prepared to incur heavy expenditure for the provision of proper roads, sanitary facilities, etc., unless he can be assured of planning permission and a site licence. There is some prospect of this being obtained during 1964, in which case what is now an eyesore can perhaps be converted into a reasonable caravan site.

The position in Thurrock regarding properly licensed sites is as follows:—

(1) No. of cases during the year in which a site licence was granted	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
(2) Total number of licensed sites	....	....	....	....	....	....	10

Of the ten licensed sites, nine are in respect of one caravan only. The remaining one comprises the caravan site at Corringham which has been previously mentioned.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

During the year 1,155 complaints were received from residents within the Urban District. Every effort is made to deal with such complaints on the day of receipt.

DETAILS OF WORK EXECUTED.

Dampness remedied	....	....	....	....	....	35
Plaster repaired	....	....	....	....	....	62
Floors repaired	....	....	....	....	....	29
Windows repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	79
Stoves repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	12
Doors, locks, etc., repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	20
Supply pipe to W.C. cisterns	....	....	....	....	....	1
Staircase repaired	....	....	....	....	....	5
Rooms stripped, cleansed and redecorated	....	....	....	....	....	3
Chimney repaired	....	....	....	....	....	4
Drains unstopped or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	32
Gullies repaired	....	....	....	....	....	7
Inspection chambers repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	4
Soil or ventilation pipes repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	9
New sinks, etc., provided	....	....	....	....	....	2
W.C's. or pail closets repaired	....	....	....	....	....	57
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	15
Water supplies and fittings repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	9
Roofs repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	57
Gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	63
Walls repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	21
Yards paved or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	2
Dustbins provided	....	....	....	....	....	1
Miscellaneous repairs	....	....	....	....	....	29
Accumulations removed	....	....	....	....	....	9

SECTION "F"

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspec- tions (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	21	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	330	338	37	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	355	359	37	—

2 — Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	36	13	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	37	14	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS.

There is one employer of outworkers as defined in Sections 110 and 111 of the Act, in this area.

A register of outworkers resident in the district is kept, the number so registered being 330.

SECTION "G"

SHOPS, ETC., INSPECTION

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Shops Act, 1950.

Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938.

WEEKLY HALF HOLIDAY ORDERS.

(1) Grays Thurrock — Wednesday.

Art Needlework Dealers, Boot Dealers, Corn Dealers, Drapers, Dealers in Fancy Goods, Furnishers, Outfitters, Grocers, Ironmongers, Jewellers, Nurserymen, Oil and Colour Merchants, Ships Chandlers, Sewing Machine Dealers, Stationers, Wardrobe Dealers, Harness Makers, Butchers, Chemists and Hairdressers

Exemptions:— Photographers, Dealers in photographic goods.

(2) South Ockendon — Wednesday.

All trades not exempted by Act, Stationers, Corn and Coal Dealers.

(3) South Ockendon — Thursday.

Stationers.

Exemptions:— Corn and Coal Merchants.

(4) Stanford-le-Hope — Wednesday.

All trades except those exempted by the Act, together with Furniture Dealers, Hairdressers, Outfitters and Watchmakers.

(5) Purfleet and Langdon Hills.

All shops exempt from closing.

(6) Tilbury — Wednesday.

Hairdressers.

(7) Fobbing.

Coal and Coke Merchants exempted.

CLOSING ORDERS.

(1) Grays Thurrock — Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 7 p.m.,
Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 9 p.m.

Art Needlework Dealers, Bakers, Boot and Shoe Merchants, Butchers, Chemists, China and Glass Merchants, Corn Merchants, Dairymen, Drapers, Furnishers, Gents' Outfitters, Ironmongers and Hardware Merchants, Jewellers, Oil and Colour Merchants, Photographers, Sewing Machine Agents and Stationers.

- (2) North and South Stifford, West and Little Thurrock.
Tobacconists — Weekdays 9.30 p.m., Saturday 10 p.m.

Sunday Trading Exemptions.

Parts of Grays (Old High Street from Market Place to Grays Beach).	Photographic requisites. Sale of articles for bathing or fishing, toys, souvenirs, fancy goods, books, stationery, photographs, reproductions & postcards.
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Some 695 visits were carried out resulting in the service of 13 written notices, made up as follows:—

REQUIREMENTS	No. OF INSTANCES
Redecoration of W.C's.	5
Observance of Weekly Half Holiday Order	4
Provision of Heating	1
Observance of Sunday Closing	1
Provision of Washing facilities	1

Fifteen notices were complied with during the year.

During the year, warning letters have been sent to shopkeepers regarding the following:—

- (1) The sale of paraffin for domestic use from garages and hardware shops on a Sunday.
- (2) Carrying on the business of a hairdresser on a Sunday.

In addition, considerable difficulty was experienced with ladies' hairdressers in Tilbury who, despite the fact that a Wednesday Half Holiday Order exists, persisted in opening on both Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. Finally a petition was addressed to the Council requesting that the weekly half holiday be changed to Monday or Tuesday. The Council agreed in principle to the change, and conducted a poll of the hairdressers in the area. The majority, however, voted in favour of the existing half day and the alteration was therefore not proceeded with.

SECTION "H"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

There are within the area 14 registered dairies, and licences for the sale of designated milk have also been issued in respect of 119 shops premises and three milk vending machines.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

Number of licences in force: —

(a) Dealer's (Prepacked) for Tuberculin Tested Milk	50
(b) „ „ „ Pasteurised Milk	.... 87
(c) „ „ „ Sterilised Milk	.... 38
(d) Dealer's (Pasteuriser's)	.... .... 1
(e) Dealer's (Tuberculin Tested)	.... .... 2

Pasteurising Plants.

There is now only one pasteurising plant in the area—a H.T.S.T. type with a capacity of 1,500 G.P.H. The small "Holder" type plant has now closed down, the dairyman concerned having decided to retail milk in prepacked cartons.

Samples are regularly taken from the existing plant and all have proved satisfactory.

MILK SAMPLES.

(a) *Bacteriological.*

The following tables show the number of samples taken and the results obtained: —

GRADE	No. Taken	Phosphatase Test		Methylene Blue Test			Turbidity Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Void	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	39	39	—	35	1	3	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Past.)	453	453	—	432	8	13	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	47	—	—	47	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	23	—	—	—	—	—	23	—

It is to be noted that, of the 562 samples of designated milk taken, 16 failed the methylene blue test.

Milk Samples which failed the appropriate tests during 1963.

Failure	Designation			Samples from	
	Past.	T.T. (Past.)	T.T.	Plants within the area	Plants outside the area
Methylene Blue Test	3	13	—	2	14
Phosphatase Test	—	—	—	—	—

Of the 16 unsatisfactory samples, 6 were from vending machines and the remaining 10 from sealed bottles.

Vending machines seem to be increasing in popularity and unless they are used regularly there is a tendency for milk to be retained for too long a period. In addition some appear to be geared in such a manner that milk during the warmer summer weather is retained at too high a temperature. A combination of these two factors is liable to lead to methylene blue failures.

So far as bottles and cartons are concerned it is impossible to secure adequate local control in view of the fact that the milk is produced, processed, bottled and in some cases distributed from premises outside this area.

With the control of milk production out of the hands of local authorities and the tendency for the small dairyman to disappear (or to become a mere purveyor of bottled milk) the trade is now in the hands of large companies with the result that the strict control which was exercised locally is no longer possible.

(b) *Biological.*

There are 26 milk-producing farms in the area and every effort is made to sample the milk from each farm twice yearly. During the year 50 samples were taken for submission to the biological test with a view to determining the presence or otherwise of tubercle bacilli. In no case was a positive result obtained.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the area and they are in regular use. The Construction Regulations apply to both these premises.

KNACKERS YARD.

There are no licensed Knackers' Yards in the area.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2811	110	31	5499	2148
Number inspected					
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	9	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	341	38	2	721	255
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	12.13	34.61	6.45	12.52	11.88
<i>Tuberculosis Only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.63
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	1	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration	18	1	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Cysticercosis	0.64	0.9	—	—	—

It will be noted that the total number of animals slaughtered during the year was 10,599, a decrease of 10.4% over 1962 due largely to a decrease in the number of sheep killed.

It is pleasing to record that every animal slaughtered has been inspected.

Tuberculosis now plays a minor role in meat inspection and during the year under review, the incidence of *Cysticercus Bovis* has slightly increased.

With the coming into operation of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, all carcasses are now stamped by the Inspector but the Council have decided, for the time being, to make no charge for this service.

MEAT CONDEMNED.

The weight of meat condemned in the slaughterhouses during the year amounts to 8,269 lbs.

SLAUGHTERMEN.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

A register of all licensed slaughtermen is kept in accordance with the above Act and the number so licensed is 14.

UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED.

Commodity			Blown Dam'd. Decom. cwt. qrs. lbs. ozs.					
644	Tins	Meat	„	„	„	12	2	13 11½
1845	„	Fruit	„	„	„	18	0	12 12¼
937	„	Vegetables	„	„	„	6	3	18 13
193	„	Fish	„	„	„	—	4	10 9¾
691	„	Tomatoes	„	„	„	3	1	23 5½
66	„	Soup	„	„	„	—	1	25 11¼
35	„	Baby Food	„	„	„	—	—	12 7½
45	„	Pudding	„	„	„	—	1	8 7
115	„	Cream	„	„	„	—	1	13 7
5	„	Syrup	„	„	„	—	—	10 0
102	„	Rice	„	„	„	—	3	24 10
2	„	Coffee	„	„	„	—	—	— 8
1	Tin	Egg Custard	„	„	„	—	—	— 4½

Commodity			Blown Dam'd. Decom. cwt. qrs. lbs. ozs.						
74	Tins	Apple Dumplings	„	„	—	1	5	11	
17	„	Spaghetti	„	„	—	—	10	3½	
12	„	Fruit Juice	„	„	—	—	12	0	
1	„	Sago	„	„	—	—	—	12	
4	„	Preserves	„	„	—	—	5	0	
7	„	Gherkins	„	„	—	—	—	—	
208	„	Milk	„	„	2	1	2	2	
111	„	Milk	196⅞ pints equivalent						
1317	Pkts.	Frozen Food	Refrigerator Breakdown						
1	Jar	Sandwich Spread	Dam'd.		—	—	—	—	
39	Jars	Preserves	„	„	—	1	19	8	
8	„	Meat Paste	„	Decom.	—	—	1	0½	
1	Jar	Pickled Onions	„	„	—	—	—	10	
1	„	Sunny Spread	„	„	—	—	1	0	
4	Pkts.	Biscuits	„	„	—	—	1	12	
17	„	Choc. Biscuits, Cocoa Moth Infested	„	„	—	—	—	—	
11	„	Cheese Spread	„	Decom.	—	—	1	11½	
1	Drum	Salt	Damp and Damaged		—	—	1	8	
		Fruit Juice	} Damaged, 17 Pints 13 Fluid Ozs.						
		Minerals							
1	Tin	Shandy	„	„	—	—	—	—	
4		Chickens	Decomposed		—	—	13	0	
4		Ducks	„	„	—	—	16	8	
		Cheese	„	„	—	—	14	0	
		Pork Sausages	„	„	—	—	6	0	
48		Savalloys	„	„	—	—	8	8	
		Pork	„	„	—	—	9	4	
		Beef	Bruising		—	—	17	2	
		Imp. Lambs Liver,	Decom. & Tyosin		—	2	22	0	
		Imp. Pig Kidneys	Decomposition		—	2	14	0	
		Imp. Ox Cheeks	„	„	—	1	26	0	
		Frozen Rabbits	Freezer Burn		1	0	7	0	
TOTAL WEIGHT OF FOOD CONDEMNED					2 tons	11	3	13	14

All condemned food is collected by the department and disposed of on the Council's Refuse Tip.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLES.

334 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:

<i>Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>
Grade I	284
Grade II	23
Grade III	20
Grade IV	7

5 ice lolly samples were taken and all were satisfactory.

The standard of ice-cream sold within the area throughout the year is set out below: —

Producer	Total Samples	I	II	III	IV
A	132	118	9	4	1
B	116	110	4	2	—
C	7	4	2	1	—
D	25	25	—	—	—
*E	23	13	4	5	1
F	1	1	—	—	—
G	8	4	1	1	2
H	14	7	2	2	3
I	1	1	—	—	—
J	4	—	—	4	—
K	1	—	1	—	—
L	2	1	—	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	334	284	23	20	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

*Producer "E" is situated within the Urban District. The remaining producers manufacture outside the area but retail the supplies within. The 23 samples from the Thurrock producer came within the following categories:—

Percentage of Grade I samples	56.52%
„ „ Grade I and II samples	73.9%
„ „ Grade III samples	21.74%
„ „ Grade IV samples	4.39%

This is a regrettable departure from the standard of 1962 when no samples came within Grades 3 and 4. However, in justice to

the manufacturer, it must be recorded that all the Grade 3 and 4 samples, together with three of the Grade 2 samples were from vehicles or shops after the ice cream had passed from his control.

It is worth recording that the vast majority of Grade 3 and 4 samples were obtained from ice cream vehicles during the summer months. These vehicles for the most part, came from outside the area and very little control can be exercised over them.

OTHER FOOD SAMPLES.

During the year samples of meat pies, fish cakes and baby food were submitted for bacteriological examination following complaints of illness but in all cases negative results were obtained.

A sample of coffee was alleged to give rise to illness and was submitted for chemical examination. The complaint was unfounded.

FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises in the area is as under:—

Butchers	71
Grocers and Provision Merchants	160
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	62
Fishmongers (including fish fryers)	33
Sugar Confectionery	88
Flour Confectionery	23
Bakehouses	12
Cafes and Restaurants	78
Works Canteens	70
School Canteens	55
Licensed Premises	66
Clubs	48
General Stores ...	23

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

The special attention devoted to enforcing the above Regulations was continued during 1963 and a total of 2,168 visits and revisits were made to food shops, cafes, school and factory canteens.

Details of requirements made under the Regulations are as follows: —

REQUIREMENTS	NUMBER
Repair and/or redecorate walls and ceilings	115
Remove accumulations of refuse	8
Provide constant hot water	30
Provide soap, towel and nailbrush	14
Provide washing facilities	11
Provide water supply	9
Cleanse equipment	12
Cleanse and/or repair floors	21
Provide accommodation for outdoor clothing	16
Protect food from risk of contamination	21
Repair equipment	2
Provide sinks	5
Provide First Aid Equipment	21
Repair or cleanse refrigerator	4
Repair roofs	3
Provide “Wash your Hands” notices	32
Provide adequate ventilation	2
Display name and address on food vehicle	1
Refrain from smoking	4
Provide lighting to sanitary conveniences	13
Provide protective clothing	1
Provide impervious table tops	3

It cannot be denied that great improvements have been effected by genuine efforts to implement these regulations, but progress is being bedevilled by looseness of expression in certain respects.

The query of what is “reasonably practicable” or what constitutes “risk of contamination” for the purpose of the regulations is for ever stalking the Inspector.

Vagueness in legal expressions has two drawbacks—one is that it virtually ensures invidious comparison and lack of uniformity—the other is that it serves to discourage local authorities from embarking on legal enforcement lest failure results in abandonment of further effort.

What is required is clear power to ensure, as far as possible, a levelling up so that the high standards set in a minority of premises become the only acceptable standard in all food premises.

It seems to me, for example, that the time has arrived when the regulations should prohibit the exposure of foodstuffs so as to give rise to risk of contamination—any form of contamination. Furthermore, dogs should be forbidden in all food premises.

The case for registration or licensing has been advocated on many occasions and public health inspectors have emphatically declared a reasoned conviction in favour of such a system of control.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—Section 16.

The records show that there were 380 premises registered for the manufacture or preservation of food, or sale of ice cream at the year's end.

These figures include 59 premises registered under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, for the preparation of potted shrimps.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

One prosecution was instituted during the year. This was in respect of the sale of a mouldy Swiss Roll. A fine of £5 was imposed.

In other cases (14) informal action was taken without recourse to legal proceedings. This involved a warning letter from the Clerk to the Council.

A decision taken by the Public Health Committee not to prosecute is often guided by whether or not it is a first offence or is due to obvious negligence. In many cases the complainant, who is more often than not, the material witness in the case, is unwilling to appear in court and although the local authority is empowered to subpoena a witness, evidence obtained from an unwilling witness is often hostile and not often resorted to.

There were two instances of caterpillars or maggots in Italian tinned tomatoes. These were found to be of a type which feed on tomatoes. Enquiries revealed that this is an ever present problem with Italian packers and the most stringent precautions are taken in an endeavour to prevent such occurrences.

Only one case of a dirty milk bottle occurred in the year under review. This involved a bottle containing milk residue which had become mouldy and had not been washed out before being filled with milk. A warning letter was sent to the firm concerned.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST

During the year 1963, 348 samples of food and drugs were examined. Of these, 74 were taken formally and 274 informally.

The number adulterated or about which some comment was made was 25. The incidence of these criticisms may be classified as follows:—

		<i>Number of samples examined</i>	<i>Number of samples adulterated, etc.</i>
Milk	....	48	—
Other Foods	....	257	20
Drugs	....	43	5

The winter at the beginning of the year was extremely cold and there was much snow on the ground causing trouble in the feeding of cattle. This was reflected in the poor quality milk obtained during the months of February, March, and April.

During the year a number of articles of food were received due to complaints by members of the public and in nine cases the complaints were justified, though the complainant might not have been quite correct in his suspicions. Two portions of bread contained foreign matter, due in each case, to small quantities of oil from machinery. In the first case the oil contained traces of iron and other metals, no doubt caused by the wear of metal bearings, and it should be generally understood that bakery plant should be so installed that gear oil from shafting cannot fall into the mixing pan. In the second, slices of bread, the dirt had distributed throughout the slices and this consisted essentially of vegetable oil with dirt and a few fibres, probably from an oily rag rather than from shafting, also due to carelessness in the bakery concerned.

Also submitted was some corned beef with a blackish mark which proved to be general dirt derived from dirty conditions in the processing factory.

Some canned pork luncheon meat was discoloured on the surface of the meat due to ferrous sulphide, or iron with a small quantity of tin.

Some butter was submitted with the complaint that it contained part of a spider's leg, but this was identified as a small portion of a feather.

A milk bottle was the subject of a complaint because of the presence of some foreign substance. This had probably been derived from milk residues left in the bottle and which had been allowed to become mouldy and dried, with the result that it had presumably not been properly washed out of the bottle before being refilled with milk.

A bottle of lime juice cordial contained a black deposit consisting of a penicillium mould probably due to some contamination during the filling process.

A piece of fried fish was stated to contain an insect, and this was in fact a hornet. It did not appear to have been cooked inside the batter surrounding the fish, nor did it appear to have been in the frying oil for long, but the abdomen was split open and pieces of the wings appeared to have been damaged so that it was probably that it had dropped on to the frying oil and was removed with the fish, or had landed on the fish just after it had been removed from the oil.

A coconut snow cake was submitted because the purchaser complained that it possessed a rancid flavour. The coconut on the cake tasted rather rancid although the extracted fat contained only 0.91 per cent of free fatty acids and gave a slight positive reaction for rancidity by the Kreis test. Most fats are allowed to contain up to 1 part of free fatty acid before they are condemned, but coconut and palm kernel oil taste rancid before this quantity is reached.

A chocolate layer cake and a follow-up sample contained no cocoa matter, whereas a chocolate cake must contain not less than 3 per cent of dry fat free cocoa.

A casserole steak contained only 62 per cent of total meat. According to the report of the Food Standards Committee on canned meat, in view of the declaration of ingredients "beef, wheaten flour, salt, caramel" this casserole steak would come under the heading of "Canned Meat with Cereal," and according to the Ministry's report should contain not less than 80 per cent of meat. Even if it was accepted as "Canned Meat with Gravy" it must contain not less than 75 per cent of meat.

A steak and kidney pudding contained only 23 per cent of total meat. The Food Standards Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food recommend not less than 35 per cent of meat and this product was, therefore, 34 per cent deficient in meat.

Some pork luncheon sausage contained only 64 per cent of meat. As pork luncheon sausage is sold to be sliced and used as pork luncheon meat, according to the agreement between the Association of Public Analysts and the trade it must contain 80 per cent of meat.

One sample of pork sausages contained only 53 per cent of total meat, whereas they must contain not less than 65 per cent, while another showed a total meat content of 67 per cent, which is greater than the minimum, but, unfortunately, 55 per cent of the

total meat consisted of fat. It is generally considered that not more than 50 per cent of the meat in a sausage should consist of fat.

A mixed food flavour contained 16 parts per million of lead, whereas it must not contain more than 10 parts per million. It was not a flavouring within the meaning of the Labelling of Food Order because it contained salt, sodium glutamate, powdered onion, ground spices, yeast extract, starch and herbs. Dried herbs, spices and dried onions must not contain more than 10 parts per million of lead, and as spices were declared in the smallest quantity, the lead cannot be as much as 10 parts per million on the whole.

A sample of shredded suet contained only 79.4 per cent of fat, and the follow-up sample contained only 75 per cent of fat. The Food Standards Suet Order requires not less than 83 per cent of fat.

A sample of "Slimmers Sugar" consisted of sugar with 1% of sodium saccharin and was recommended for making puddings and cakes. This was considered by your analyst to be a misleading label, as with puddings and cakes one eats to repletion or comfort. One does not eat to calories unless one is on a regulated diet, and this label disclaimed any pretence to be a diabetic sweetener. By analogy with the Bread and Flour Regulations, 1963, mentioned later, this product should only be recommended for slimming, when the label mentions that it should only be used to form part of a diet of which the calorie intake is controlled.

Some "Sarsaparilla" was stated to contain 0.84 per cent of Potassium Iodide but only 0.57 per cent could be detected, so that it was 32 per cent deficient. It was also stated to contain "Liq. Arsen." 0.39 ml. but this is no longer an official preparation and must be properly described.

The formula given on the label of a tonic indicated a maximum of 9-10 per cent of sugar whereas in fact it contained 29.9 per cent. Had the tonic been prepared as declared it would soon decompose, whereas it showed good keeping properties.

Some "Bismuthated Magnesia Tablets" were not made to any recognised formula, and therefore the active constituents must be disclosed. The manufacturers stated that the sales were very small and purchasers would know what they were buying, but your analyst is of the opinion that if the formula used does not comply with any of the published formulae people are unlikely to know what they are buying.

Some children's aspirins contained approximately three times the quantity of free salicylic acid permitted by the British Pharmacopoeia for soluble aspirin. As the quantity of free salicylic acid increases on keeping, these were presumably old stock.

The label on a "Golden Syrup Cough Mixture" was incorrect. As a cough syrup, the presence of sugar must be disclosed as an

active ingredient, and the declaration "flavoured base to 100" is not required by the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.

LEGISLATION ISSUED OR PROPOSED DURING 1963.

The year has been a comparatively quiet one regarding the issue of food regulations, but the following are of interest:—

THE BREAD AND FLOUR REGULATIONS, 1963.

These Regulations largely reinforce the provisions of the Flour (Composition) Order, 1956, with improvements but with restrictions on the sale of bread for dietetic purposes. It is now permissible to add iron to flour either as reduced iron or as iron and ammonium citrate, a provision which has been found necessary because the reduced iron has also been removed and has caused trouble with the magnets, when flour is passed under a magnet for manufacturing purposes in order to remove nails and other pieces of iron, which may have got into the flour. It is no longer necessary to add chalk to self-raising flours prepared with a calcium containing baking powder. Milk bread and skimmed milk bread must contain not less than 6 per cent of milk powder or skimmed milk powder, as the case may be, calculated on the dry weight of the bread. Protein enriched bread must contain not less than 20 per cent of protein, calculated on the dry weight, and starch-reduced bread, biscuits, rusks, and breakfast foods must not contain more than 50 per cent of starch similarly calculated. No claims are permitted for slimming properties unless these are accompanied by a statement to the effect that the food forms part of a diet of which the calories intake is controlled.

THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963, have been issued as a result of the number of food poisoning cases, which have been traced to the use of raw liquid or frozen egg. The test relies on the fact that an enzyme, amylase, present in fresh egg is destroyed by pasteurisation.

THE ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1963, have been issued to permit the addition of sugar as well as water to an ice cream mix, which has been prepared according to the requirements of the main regulations.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1963, follow the main lines of previous regulations, but now introduce a test

for the efficiency of the heating of so-called sterilised milk. This test depends on the coagulation of a protein, lactalbumen, during the heating of the milk.

THE SOFT DRINKS REGULATIONS, 1963, increase the quantity of fruit juice or comminuted fruit required to be present in fruit drinks and permit the sale of comminuted fruit drinks made from citrus fruits other than oranges. They increase the quantity of sugar required to be present in soft drinks and reduce the permitted amount of saccharin. If present, it is now necessary to declare the presence of saccharin on the label of any soft drink. Unfortunately it is still permissible to use acetic acid or phosphoric acid in soft drinks so long as they are not described as fruit squashes, fruit crushes, or comminuted citrus drinks, but it is now illegal to use any pictorial device or any wording to suggest the presence of fruit which is not represented in the flavouring of the drink.

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT, 1963, AND THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES REGULATIONS, 1963, mainly affect Weights and Measures Authorities, though attention will have to be paid to the net contents of pre-packed foods, when examining such articles.

REPORT OF THE FOOD STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON MEAT PIES. This report was issued during the year and at the beginning of 1964 draft regulations have been issued based on the recommendations as modified in view of comments received by the Minister. Essentially the proposals are that meat pies should contain not less than 25 per cent of meat, though pies weighing between 4 and $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces need contain only 1 ounce of meat and those weighing up to 3 ounces need contain only $\frac{5}{8}$ ounce of meat. It is further suggested that in the event of the quality of larger pies, i.e., those over 8 ounces declining as a result of any regulations, it might be necessary to issue regulations for larger meat pies. Suggestions were included in the report regarding the absorption of fat from the meat of a meat pie into the surrounding pastry. Recommendations have been made to allow for fat in the pastry in excess of certain figures, as having been derived from the meat.

A Circular, FSH/Circular 12/63, was issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food advising Local Authorities that the Customs and Excise are no longer testing for arsenic, glucose or invert sugar used in brewing and that this duty now devolves on Local Authorities in which breweries are situated. Speaking generally manufacturers of these products see that they comply with the regulations because of the great value of the trade, which they have with brewers.

THOMAS McLACHLAN.

Article	Number samples examined			Number adulterated, etc.		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Almonds, ground	—	1	1	—	—	—
Baby Food	—	2	2	—	—	—
Baked Beans with Frankfurters	—	1	1	—	—	—
Baking Powder	—	3	3	—	—	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	—	1	1	—	—	—
Biscuits	—	1	1	—	—	—
Bread	—	2	2	—	2	2
Bread Mix	—	1	1	—	—	—
Butter	—	7	7	—	1	1
Cake	1	3	4	1	2	3
Cheese	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee	—	3	3	—	—	—
Confectionery	—	11	11	—	—	—
Confectionery, diabetic	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cornflour	—	2	2	—	—	—
Cream	—	5	5	—	—	—
Custard Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Essence, Rennet	—	1	1	—	—	—
Fish	—	2	2	—	1	1
Fish Cakes	—	3	3	—	—	—
Fish Paste	—	3	3	—	—	—
Flavouring	—	1	1	—	—	—
Flour	—	6	6	—	—	—
Fruit, dried	—	1	1	—	—	—
Fruit, diabetic	—	1	1	—	—	—
Fruit, fresh	—	42	42	—	—	—
Fruit Juice	—	1	1	—	—	—
Gelatine	—	1	1	—	—	—
Honey	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ice Cream	—	6	6	—	—	—
Ice Cream Mix	—	2	2	—	—	—
Ice Lolly Syrup	—	1	1	—	—	—
Jam	—	2	2	—	—	—

Article	Number samples examined			Number adulterated, etc.		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Jam, Diabetic	—	1	1	—	—	—
Jelly	—	4	4	—	—	—
Lemon Curd	—	1	1	—	—	—
Margarine	—	3	3	—	—	—
Margarine, Kosher	—	1	1	—	—	—
Marmalade	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mayonnaise	—	1	1	—	—	—
Meat & Meat Products	—	36	36	—	7	7
Milk	48	—	48	—	—	—
Milk bottle	—	1	1	—	1	1
Milk, condensed	—	5	5	—	—	—
Milk, evaporated	—	1	1	—	—	—
Milk, diet	—	1	1	—	—	—
Milk, dried	—	3	3	—	—	—
Milk shake powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mustard	—	3	3	—	—	—
Olive Oil	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pie Filling	—	3	3	—	—	—
Pudding Sponge	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pulses	—	1	1	—	—	—
Rice	—	2	2	—	—	—
Saccharin Tablets	—	3	3	—	—	—
Salad Cream	—	1	1	—	—	—
Salt & Spice Mix	—	1	1	—	1	1
Sauce	—	3	3	—	—	—
Soft Drinks	—	7	7	—	1	1
Soup Powder	—	2	2	—	—	—
Spice	—	5	5	—	—	—
Spirits	23	—	23	—	—	—
Spread, savoury	—	1	1	—	—	—
Suet	1	5	6	—	2	2
Sugar	—	2	2	—	1	1
Tea	—	1	1	—	—	—
Tomatoes	—	3	3	—	—	—
Tomato Juice	—	1	1	—	—	—

Article	Number samples examined			Number adulterated, etc.		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Tomato Puree	—	1	1	—	—	—
Vegetables Processed	—	1	1	—	—	—
Wine	1	1	2	—	—	—
Yeast	—	1	1	—	—	—
Yeast Extract	—	1	1	—	—	—
DRUGS:						
Antacid Tablets	—	3	3	—	—	—
Aspirin Tablets	—	6	6	—	1	1
Balsam	—	1	1	—	—	—
Bismuthated Magnesia Tablets	—	1	1	—	1	1
Cod Liver Oil Capsules	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cold Tablets	—	2	2	—	—	—
Cough Linctus	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cough Mixture	—	2	2	—	1	1
Cough Syrup	—	2	2	—	—	—
Diarrhoea Mixture	—	1	1	—	—	—
Glycerine Lemon & Honey	—	2	2	—	—	—
Glycerine Lemon & Ipecac	—	1	1	—	—	—
Herbal Mixture	—	1	1	—	—	—
Laxative	—	3	3	—	—	—
Lime Syrup	—	1	1	—	—	—
Magnesia	—	1	1	—	—	—
Malt Extract with Cod Liver Oil	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mouth Ulcer Drops & Tablets	—	2	2	—	—	—
Pain Relief Tablets	—	1	1	—	1	1
Sarsaparilla	—	1	1	—	—	—
Throat Lozenges	—	2	2	—	—	—
Tonic	—	2	2	—	1	1
Travel Sickness Tablets	—	2	2	—	—	—
Vitamin Tablets	—	3	3	—	—	—
	74	274	348	1	24	25

ACTION TAKEN REGARDING UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

Sarsaparilla:	Old Export Stock despatched to retailer in error. Manufacturer withdrew remainder of stock.
Steak & Kidney Pudding:	23% Meat—Attention of manufacturer drawn to Public Analyst's opinion, in the absence of a legal standard no further action possible.
Bismuthated Magnesia Tablets:	Incorrectly labelled. Attention of Manufacturers called to Public Analyst's comments.
Tonic:	Incorrectly labelled—Manufacturer has amended label.
Pork Luncheon Sausage:	64% meat—no action.
Butter:	Foreign Body—small portion of feather—no action.
Aromat Flavoureriser:	Stock withdrawn from shop by wholesaler.
Coconut Cake:	Warning letter to firm and drawing attention to the necessity for the correct rotation of stock.
Pork Luncheon Meat:	Meat of foreign origin, matter taken up with canners through importers.
Pork Sausages:	Attention of manufacturers drawn to excess of fat they promised attention to selection of meat.
Sugar Sweetener:	Manufacturers attention drawn to Public Analyst's opinion.
Fried Fish:	Foreign Body—Warning letter sent to fish frier.
Lime Juice Cordial:	Warning letter sent to manufacturers.
Corned Beef:	Of foreign origin—warning letter to importers.
Casserole Steak:	Attention of meat importers drawn to low meat content—62%.
Suet:	Manufacturers attention drawn to low fat content, 79.4%, consignment withdrawn from sale.
Chocolate Cake:	Attention of retailers drawn to lack of non-fat cocoa solids—warning letter sent.
Bread:	Warning letter sent to manufacturers.
Children's Aspirin:	Old stock—disposed of by retailer.
Milk Bottle:	No action.
Pork Sausages:	53% meat— butcher changed method of manufacture.
Cough Mixture:	Incorrectly labelled—manufacturers have altered label.